



# Department of Justice

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## **HOGSETT ANNOUNCES THE PROSECUTION OF INDIANAPOLIS MAN CHARGED WITH UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FRAUD**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Lorenzo Lipscomb, 27, of Indianapolis, was charged with wire fraud for having defrauded the Indiana Department of Workforce Development of approximately \$17,000 in unemployment insurance benefits to which he was not entitled.

The information alleges that between January and July 2009, Lipscomb filed on-line claims for unemployment insurance benefits with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development using the identities of approximately eighteen previously deceased persons. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development relied on the information submitted by Lipscomb and paid a total of approximately \$17,000 in unemployment insurance benefits via debit cards issued in the names of the deceased persons whose identities Lipscomb had stolen. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development paid these benefits with funds provided by the United States Bureau of Public Debt. Lipscomb caused the debit cards to be mailed to him and used the debit cards to draw down the funds for his personal benefit.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Joe H. Vaughn, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Lorenzo Lipscomb faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Following a hearing held on August 17, 2011, before a U.S. Magistrate Judge, Lipscomb was ordered detained at the Marion County Jail. This case was investigated by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

Lipscomb is currently charged with his sister, Lowkeysha Lipscomb, 29, with conspiracy to defraud the Treasury, filing false claims for income tax refunds, conspiracy to commit wire fraud, and aggravated identity theft for having electronically filed false, fictitious, and fraudulent income tax returns with the IRS over an approximate two and one-half year period between

January 1, 2006 and April 15, 2008, seeking a total of approximately \$600,000 in bogus income tax refunds in the names of living and deceased individuals whose identities the Lipscombs had stolen. This case is pending before United States District Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson.

An information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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